

A just
VINDICATION
On the behalf of
John Eliot Esq;
IN
ANSWER
TO
PETITIONS
Preferred against him to
His Excellency
And to
Mr. Speaker
Of the Honourable House of
COMMONS,

By some Officers under the Command
of Major Generall LAUGHORNE.

Imprinted in the Year, 1648.

no T
to Eliot

6 1878

MINICAN

RECEIVED
HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
MAY 28 1914
SUBSCRIPTIONS
ENGLISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

John E. Fild

AND S. W. F.

TO

THE

OF THE

Historical Society

And to

Mr. Specker

Of the Honorable House of

COMMONS

By James O. G. ...

of Major General ...

in ... the Year ...



(C)
A just Vindication on the behalfe,
of JOHN ELLIOT Esq; in answer to
Petitions preferred against him to his Ex-
cellency and to Mr. Speaker of the ho-
nourable House of Commons, by some
Officers under the command of Ma-
jor General Lamborne.



Here is nothing more saddens the
hearts of honest men, then to be
unworthily traduced with false sug-
gestions presented with a colour of
truth; and happy is he who not-
withstanding such provocations,
will entertain no persecuting thoughts to stick or
lye downe with him: And I am confident the Gen-
tleman in whose vindication I write, if he hath
not attained to his full wishes therein, yet he doth
endeavour to study Christian forbearance, and pas-
sively looke upon such malicious calumnies as Da-
vid did on *Simeon's* cursing, rather than harbour im-
placability of revenge; but in his just vindication
as a friend to truth and to undeceive such who have
read a Petition against him, beleeving it being once
printed it might be stuffed in other weekly Pamph-
lets and dispersed & the Reader prejudiced in opini-
on with the falsities thereof; I shall first therefore ob-

(2)
serve the heads of the said Petition suggested against Mr. Eliot the accused, as I found them in the end of a Triviall Pamphlet of Prince Griffies Histories, and then in order give you an answer to every particular.

The Petition was directed to his Excellency, intituled, *The humble Petition of the Colonells, Lieutenant Colonells, Majors, Captains, and other Officers under the Command of Major Generall Langborne.*

1. That their Major Generall honour and his Forces are tainted by false aspersions, as if they would joyne with Poyer to maintain the Castle of Pembroke against the Parliament.

2 That Mr. John Eliot is the profess'd Author of Accusation.

3 That Mr. Eliot hath executed the Commission of Array in the County of Pembroke, and that he be employed to answer Articles of Delinquency against him.

4 That he hath defrauded the Army of Provisions sent them by the Parliament.

5 That he endeavours to defame all those that faithfully served the Parliament.

6 That Master Eliot may not dispose of your Prisoners Armes.

7 That he may be made incapable to proceed in his usurped Agency.

These are in briefe the particulars charged in the said Petition against Mr. Eliot, which in the frontice piece carries with it the countenance of Colonells, Lieutenant Colonells Majors, when it is well knowne there is but one Colonell, one Lieutenant Colonell, and one Major in the whole number; here is their first untruth; And I shall passe by their flourishes and their large demonstration of their merits and professions to his Excellency in the first part of their Petition, and onely adde my wish they may as really performe as they have professed touching their distanding, and to answer the rest.

The

The first is most wrongfully alleadged against Mr. Eliot, for what was printed was to this effect, That Col. Rice Powell being desired by Letter from Col. Horton to assist the Gentlemen who had besieged Poyer in the Castle of Pembroke, with the Forces under his Command, did absolutely refuse it: This Mr. Eliot received from good hands out of the County of Pembroke; and this was afterward confirmed to Mr. Eliot by a Gentleman of that County, who said he saw Col. Powells Letter to Col. Horton to the effect aforesaid; And on the second day of March the Generall received a Letter from Col. Fleming, and amongst other particulars he gave an accompt of to the Generall touching that Castle, he related these words, *sc.* I finde thus some of Major-Generall Laughornes Forces are of Poyers Council, and great hopes he hath of making his Party good against any Power. This alludes much to make good what was asserted by Mr. Eliot; and in the end of this sheet the Reader may peruse a Letter from the Commissioners to Poyers, wherein he may see how Powell and the rest of the Petitioners have performed their professions to the Generall touching their disbanding.

To the second, Mr. Eliot is not the professed accuser of any, but doth really with the Petitioners were as free from malice and animosities as himselfe; he will justify any particular he is Author of. And as for their Charge of Delinquency, which they threaten him withall, they cannot possibly do him a greater favour, for in his Answer he doubts not onely to cleare himselfe with good advantage, but shall thereby make it advantageous to the State, by discovering the actions of the accusers so much recomptable.

There is nothing more false and scandalous than the third, for no man living can prove that ever Master Eliot did execute the Commission of Array.

and if such a thing had been, it must have been acted in publique: But Mr. *Eliot* did never as much as see the Commission of Array, neither was it ever opened or executed in the County of *Pembroke*: But this Charge carries with it such a clouding full mouthed aspersion, that it's enough at first view to blast the strongest and cleereſt reputation, untill the mist be dispeld, and their falshood appeare.

To the fourth; Its well knowne Mr. *Eliot* never had the buying of any Provisions, though within this three yeeres he hath sent downe to the County of *Pembroke* according to severall Ordinances of Parliament, in Monies, Armes, Ammunition, and Provisions, about the summe of 9000 l. Mr. *Arthur Owen* being alwaies joyned with Mr. *Eliot* in all Ordinances for sending Provisions unto the County of *Pembroke*, and both of them together have alwaies received the Provisions ready packed up by the Merchant that bought them, and so conveyed them from Tower Wharff aboard the Ships, so that if Mr. *Eliot* had been deceitfully bent, he never had the opportunity; but for every penny they can prove that Mr. *Eliot* hath defrauded the State, he will be bound to give them 100 l. This aspersion being equally scandalous and false with all the rest.

To the fifth, There is no man living can prove that ever Mr. *Eliot* spoke any words of derogation of any because they loved the Parliament; for he hath been alwaies a lover of such; he hath two Sons that have been alwaies in Armes for the Parliament under the command of Major Generall *Laughorne* since the beginning of the Wars there, that are knowne to have been in as much action, and as faithfull lovers of the Parliament as any in that Army; therefore any one may judge, he would be very cautious and chary of laying aspersions on that Army in generall: This allegation being as false as all the rest.

To

To the sixth, Mr. *Eliot* doth not desire to have the custody of their Armes, or to dispose of them, neither doth he know what ground they have to suggest to themselves such a thing, if they meane their Armes in the Countrey, Mr. *Eliot* is at a sufficient distance from them; and if they intend to disband, what need they be troubled who shall have their Armes

To the seventh, concerning Mr. *Eliot's* Agency, I shall desire leave of the Reader to digresse a little, and give him the true ground of Mr. *Eliot's* Agency, before I answer that point: Mr. *Eliot* being ever very active for the Parliament, was himselfe in person with two of his Sons and Servants, at the first taking in of *Carmarthen* to the Parliament in May, 1644. and severall other Castles of that Countrey, commanded there the Trained Band of the hundred he lived in; he garrisoned his house for the Parliament, and for want of timely reliefe from Major Generall *Langborne*, who promised it, he and two of his Sons were then taken prisoners by *Gerards* Forces; Mr. *Eliot* was afterward exchanged for Col. *Per*, his Sons were prisoners in *Carmarthen* Castle about foure months, and Mr. *Eliot* and his two Sons were indicted of high Treason at *Carmarthen* before *David Jenkins*, then Judge for bearing Armes against the King; and the said Mr. *Jenkins* gave sentence of death on Mr. *Eliot's* eldest Son; and in August 1644 the said Forces burned Mr. *Eliot's* said dwelling house, and six of his houses in the Towne of *Narberth*, and plundered him of all his personall Estate; and in the yeere following about Aprill, 1645. at *Gerards* second coming downe his Forces plundered Mr. *Eliot* againe of all the stock he had gotten in that interim, his wife and twelve children and grandchildren left without habitation or subsistence, and he totally ruined in his fortune.

Now

Now I come to answer his point of Agency: Mr. *Eliot* being one of the Committee of that association, and in this sad condition was voted Agent to negotiate the affaires of the distressed County of *Pembroke* with the Parliament by the Committee, not one voice contradicting; which trust Mr. *Eliot* undertooke, and hath effectually performed it for these three yeeres last past, as aforesaid; And in that interim he was confirmed by two severall Orders to continue in his Agency by the said Committee; and Mr. *Eliot*'s great toyle, care and diligence, in the conveying down of moneys and provisions for Major Generall *Laughornes* Army, is well knowne to severall Members of the Honourable House of Commons; And had not Mr. *Eliot*'s affection to the Parliament and his Country obliged him to it, the salary he received from the Committee was small encouragement to him, for he never received above 30^l. from the Committee during the three yeeres aforesaid. Now let all men judge whether his Agency were usurped or not. Having answered the falsities of the said Petition, I will let the Reader see from whom the said Petition tooke its rise; Let him but enquire who was lately imployed downe to the County of *Pembroke* to disband the supernumeraries, and to raise the monethly Assessment; and if he doth but know that party, and the malice he beares Mr. *Eliot*, he must needs know the influence that party hath over the Petitioners, and then cannot but judge the Petition to be the consequence thereof, the said party and the Petitioners have obstructed the said Committee from sending Mr. *Eliot* his annuall exhibition due for his Agency. The said party caused one *John Poyer*, who now is proclaimed Traytor by Ordinance of Parliament, for fortifying the Castle of *Pembroke* against the Parliament and Generall, to put in Articles against Mr.

Eliot.

Eliot and other Gentlemen to the Committee of *Gloucester* about two years since. Secondly, he caused one *John Towing*, who is likewise in Rebellion with the said *Poyer* in the said Castle, to exhibite Articles against the said Mr. *Eliot* and the said Gentlemen, at the Head Quarters at *Pinney*, being the same in substance as the said scandalous Petition; but as soone as Mr. *Eliots* and the said Gentlemans Answers were read in both places they were dismissed, to their great advantage in their reputations, by the severall Committees before whom the business was heard. And after the Ordinance past for the established Forces of the Kingdome and for the disbanding of Supernumeraries and there being no appearance of the Enemy in the said Association, but all reduced into the obedience of the Parliament, and the Counties of *Pembroke*, *Cardigan*, *Carmarthen*, and *Cardigan*, being extremely ruined in the late Warre, especially the County of *Pembroke*, whose sufferings and miseries are not to be paralleld by any Countrey of this Kingdome, fire and sword having its full rage, untill it was even glutted in the bowels thereof Mr. *Eliot* hereupon indeavoured what in him lay to have the Petitioners and the said Forces disbanded that the poore Counties aforesaid might have some time to respite and breathe after their tedious, long, irksome burthen of free Quarter; but Mr. *Arthur Owen* aforesaid, being the continued friend of the Petitioners, and first Cousen to the Commander in chiefe of those Forces, did alwaies oppose Mr. *Eliot* therein, and to keepe the said Forces undissolved; herein Mr. *Eliot* acting contrary to the Petitioners interest in order to the publique, drew their malice consequently on him: But truly I wonder how men so guilty as the Petitioners are, should be so maliciously bold to traduce Mr. *Eliot* with such falsities, being a man of approved

and knowne integrity to the Parliament; for a clearer demonstration cannot be of his affection than his activeness and sufferings for them, which are sufficient testimonies in his behalfe, besides his faithfull sollicitations here in the reducing South-Wales to the obedience of the Parliament. And as Mr. *Elliot* hath preferred alwaies to be in love and charity with all men before malice and revengefulness; so he as little values the inveterate and irreconcilable spleene of his Enemies: And though he hath many vigilant and potent adversaries that drive at his ruine, yet the candidnesse of his actions, and the just grounds he proceeds on, hath so protected him under God hitherto, that they cannot much boast of their prevailences against him. Mr. *Elliot* hath no ambition or selfe seeking ends, onely he trusts in the goodnesse of God and the Parliament, to enable him to be in the same condition he was in long before the late Warre, being then in Commission of the Peace in the County of *Pembroke*, and his family as ancient Gentry as any of that County; lived beloved in his County in a commendable and peaceable condition. To conclude, I wish the Petitioners would in imitation to Col. *Lewis* and his Regiment with Captain *Lloyd*, Capt. *Jones*, Capt. *Vaughan* and Capt. *Sturman*, yeeld their obedience in disbanding according to the Ordinance of Parliament; but I doubt their owne actions will daily witnessse to the contrary against them; for why hath some of the prime of the Petitioners drawne downe their Foot, their Magazines and Guns from *Carmarthen* to *Tenby*, and fortified the said Towne, since they refused to make their appearance before the Commissioners to be paid off according to the Ordinance? why do they mutter that they will declare for the King, and accordingly make preparation under hand? But I will wish their future

69

future obedience to the Ordinance of Parliament may ex-
piate their former disobedience, and that they may leave
their selfeish destructive ends, and become lovers of their
Country.

SIR,

WE received an Ordinance of Parliament, attended
with severall Instructions for the disbanding of
Major Generall Laughornes Forces in the associated Coun-
ties of Carmarthen, Cardigan, and Pembroke, in pur-
suance of which Ordinance we the Commissioners appoint-
ed for that service did addresse to the most convenient place
we could thinke upon for the ease of the Gentlemen of all
Quarters to meet us, and to contribute their advice for the
well settlement of the Country, and to answer the expecta-
tion of those that put us in trust; so we sitting at Carmar-
then, where your selfe was then present and did participate
with what was then agreed upon; we in due obedience to the
said Ordinance, and to accomplish the resolutions by us then
resolved, appointed severall Troops to be at Lamberd on
wednesday the first of March, there to receive their now
present pay allowed them by the Ordinance, and to be dis-
banded, Colonell Lewis, Captaine Jones, Captaine Lloyd,
Captaine Vaughan, Captaine Read, Captaine Sloeman,
and severall other Officers of Colonell Lewis Regiment ap-
peared that day with severall Troops, whom we mustred
and their number, and by us registred, of which we shall
give an account to the honourable House, and his Excel-
lency; yet notwithstanding our trust so well performed, and
as we thought our Countrey disburdened of Free-Quarter,
or any other Impositions on the Inhabitants, by them we are
given to understand that a party of Horse, name y^e Captain
Addis and Captaine Morgan, who refused their appearance
before us, to be Mustred and Disbanded and Paid, accord-

ing

ing to the Orders given by all the Commissioners at Cam-
 merton, have since made their March into the County,
 and forced the people to a new obedience of Free Quarter
 and Taxations settled and commanded by them, and what
 other may be within the command of a Soldier, without
 our priority or consent, being the appointed Commissioners
 for that employment. Sir, we desire to be rightly under-
 stood whether this intrusion be done by your Order, though
 we have better confidence of your fidelity & obedience to the
 Ordinance of both Houses, yet we shall desire you to expresse
 your selfe, that we may be satisfied, and render a candid
 construction of your fidelity to those as we conceive under
 whom you have hitherto fought: To this end we desire you
 will give order for their speedy removall out of this coun-
 try, otherwise we hope it will not be ill taken if the country
 joyne in a course to relieve themselves from a burthen under
 which they have so long groaned. Your speedy answer is de-
 sired.

James Philippes.
 Thomas Lloyd, et al.

EVEN as I had concluded there appeares more newes
 in Letters to his Excellency, which adds much to
 Mr. Eliot's Justification, and to the Petitioners accusation:
 That part of Major Generall Langbournes Forces sei-
 zed upon those Peeces of Battery sent from Gloucester
 towards Colonell Flemmings and brought them to Pem-
 broke Castle, that they have joyntly with Poyer fallen
 upon Colonell Flemmings 100 foot there being then no
 more come to him, and on those of the Country that
 joyned with him, and have either slaine or taken pri-
 soners Colonell Flemming, Roger Lort, Esquire, Cap-
 tain Carey, Master John Lort, and many others, and
 have thereby raised the Siege.

FINIS.

)